REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 9-17 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 12-17 have been added herein. However, no new matter has been added. Support for the newly added claims can be found, for example, on page 2, lines 10-25 of the specification. This Response, submitted in reply to the Office Action dated June 4, 2009, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)[1] as allegedly being unpatentable over Machida et al. (U.S. Patent 6,885,387 B1; henceforth "Machida") in view of Allan et al. (EP 1094635 A2; henceforth "Allan"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites:

> A system for managing the display of images representing network equipments of a communication network, said system comprising
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> a plurality of elements associated with hierarchical levels, wherein each element is associated with a set of primary data stored in a memory, said primary data representing the element in the level to which said element belongs without any specific attachment to any level higher than said element and at least one set of secondary data stored in said memory, said secondary data representing the element within the level to which said element belongs and the element's connection to a level higher than or equal to the level of said element in the hierarchy, and
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> management means for

[1] Applicant notes that the Office Action indicates that claims 1-6 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). However, the text of the rejection refers to claims 1-6 and 9-11 and relies on two references as rendering obvious. Thus, Applicant assumes the Examiner intended to reject the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious.

accessing and extracting from the memory at least one of the sets of primary and secondary data of the elements of the equipment that belong to a designated level and to levels lower than said equipment when a request designating a chosen level of a network equipment with attachment is received, and

for accessing and extracting from the memory the at least one of the sets of primary and secondary data of the elements of the equipment that belong only to a designated level when a request designating a chosen level of a network equipment without attachment is received.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Machida teaches substantially all of the features claimed, including a plurality of elements each associated with "primary data representing the element in the level to which said element belongs without any attachment" to higher levels and "accessing and extracting...primary and secondary data of the elements of equipment that belong only to a designated level when a request designating a chosen level... without attachment is received". However, the Examiner acknowledges that Machida does not teach "accessing and extracting from the memory ...primary and secondary data of the elements of equipment that belongs to designated level and to levels lower than said equipment when a request designating a chose level...with attachment is received". Instead, the Examiner asserts that Allan cures this deficiency. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has misconstrued the applied references.

Machida is directed to a display method and network apparatus. Specifically, Machida describes first displaying connection information for all of the shared PCs and peripherals on a network along with status information on processing states in step S201 of Fig. 3A. *See* Col. 4, lines 4-10. As described in Machida, all of the PCs and peripherals are displayed at positions of the same picture plane, based on the connection information. *See* Col. 4, lines 12-15. Machida also describes collapsing portions of the network to simplify a display, but still requires that all

the connection information be extracted. *See* Col. 4, lines 4-11, and lines 55-67. Machida explicitly teaches that even though all icons may not be displayed due to screen size restrictions, all connection states and statuses for all PCs are retrieved. *See* Col. 5, lines 1-6.

Conversely, claim 1 explicitly recites "accessing and extracting from the memory the at least one of the sets of primary and secondary data of the elements of the equipment that belong **only to a designated level when a request designating a chosen level of a network equipment without attachment is received**". In other words, one aspect of an exemplary apparatus consistent with claim 1 is retrieving the data associated elements belonging only to a specific level when a request designates a specific level without attachment.

Machida teaches retrieving all of the connection and status information for all PCs and peripherals connected to the system, when a request is received. *See* Col. 4, lines 4-11. However, Machida does not teach or even suggest retrieving any amount of data less than all of the connection information for all PCs. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Machida does not teach "accessing and extracting the at least one of the sets of primary and secondary data of the elements of the equipment that belong **only to a designated level when a request designating a chosen level of a network equipment without attachment is received**" as claimed.

Further, Allen is directed to an apparatus and method for selecting network entities. Specifically, Allen describes focusing on a subset of a network to be displayed, while the remainder of the network is not displayed. *See* Paragraph [0009]. More specifically, Allen describes a user selecting specific network features and using these selected features to define a view, preferably a view of a geographic area. *See* Col. 4, lines 56- Col. 5, line 22. Further, Allen

describes that based on the defined view all network elements within the defined view are displayed. *See* Id. However, Allen describes selecting and displaying network features across multiple attribute layers and does not actually teach only retrieving network components belonging only to a designated level. Specifically, Allen describes extracting and displaying multiple network features across multiple attribute layers. *See* Col. 7, line 1-Col. 8, lines 1-5.

Further, Allen describes selecting features by forming a "layer cake" which "consists of a layered selection of network features", which includes the defined base layer and additional layers. *See* Col. 5, lines 2-15. In other words, Allen teaches selecting network features across multiple layers or attribute levels to define a "layer cake". Allen does not teach retrieving information on network elements belonging only to a specified level or layer. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Allen also does not teach or even fairly suggest "…accessing and extracting …the sets of primary and secondary data of the elements of the equipment that belong **only to a designated level** when a request designating a chosen level … **without** attachment is received" as claimed.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, to the extent that claim 9 recites features similar to those discussed above, Applicant also submits that claim 9 is patentable for analogous reasons. Further, Applicant also submits that all claims dependant upon claims 1 and 9 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Newly Added Claims

Claims 12-17 have been added herein and depend from claims 1 and 9, which have been shown above to be patentable over the applied references. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency. Further, Applicant also submits that none of the applied references teach or even fairly suggest the unique features recited therein.

Specifically, claims 12 and 15 each recite:

> wherein said primary data of each of the plurality of elements is a primary graphical representation showing the element with which the primary data is associated within the hierarchical level to which the element belongs without showing any attachment of the element to a hierarchical level higher than the hierarchical level to which the element belongs; and
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> wherein said secondary data of each of the plurality of elements is a secondary graphical representation showing the element with which the secondary data is associated within the hierarchical level to which the element belongs and also showing a connection of the element to a hierarchical level higher or equal to the hierarchical level to which the element belongs.

In other words, each element has associated therewith a primary graphical representation showing the element within the level to which the element belongs. Further, each element also has a secondary graphical representation showing the element in the level to which the element belongs and the element's connection to a level higher than or equal to said element. None of the applied references teach or even fairly suggest each element having separate graphical representations associated therewith as claimed.

Further, claims 14 and 17 recite "wherein said management means sends the extracted at least one of the sets of primary graphical and secondary graphical representations to a graphical

interface". None of the applied references teach sending different graphical representations to a graphical interface as claimed.

Further, none of the applied references teach the features recited in claims 13 and 16, because they fail to teach the extraction of primary and secondary graphical representations as claimed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that these claims be allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880 via EFS payment screen. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/Michael C. Jones/
Michael C. Jones
Registration No. 63,266

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860
WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

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